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SUPREME LEADER OF TALIBAN AKHUNDZADA SURFACES IN Af

Haibatullah Akhundzada hadn't been seen since taking control of group in 2016; may now assume more direct leadership role

ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN

Akhundzada is the spiritual chief of the Islamist movement, but has remained a reclusive, shadowy figure, even after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August. On Saturday, however, he visited the Darul Uloom Hakimah madrassa in Kandahar and prayed for Taliban's success in rebuilding what the group calls the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

REASSERTING CONTROL IN GOVERNMENT

- There was speculation for over a year that "the emir of the faithful" had either been sick or dead after contracting Covid-19
- Akhundzada is thought to have been picked to be a figurehead rather than a military commander, but his public statements fuel speculation that he seeks a central role in the new government

2015

TALIBAN ADMITTED TO A YEARS-LONG COVER-UP OF PREVIOUS CHIEF'S DEATH

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

G20 fails to agree on net-zero emissions

Commits to carbon neutrality by mid-century; Reconfirms 1.5°C global warming target, but no action planned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LEADERS of the Group of 20 major economies committed on Sunday to seek carbon neutrality "by or around mid-century" in a compromise accord that failed to fix ambitious climate targets as the two-day Rome summit ended.

The G20 countries, responsible for more than 75% of world's greenhouse gas emissions, also did not set a target for phasing out coal domestically, in a clear nod to countries such as India and China that are dependant on the fossil fuel. The leaders did agree to phase out investment in new offshore coal power plants. But China, which according to think tank E3G is the world's last remaining major provider of coal financing abroad, has already said it would end it.

Without firm commitments from the G20 countries, momentum could be lost for the UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland — which began today and has been termed the world's "last best hope" to keep temperatures under the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial average.

Environmental campaign group Greenpeace slammed the final statement as "weak, lacking both ambition and vision", saying G20 leaders "failed to meet the moment".

John Kirton, director of the G-20 Research Group at the University of Toronto, said the leaders "took only baby steps" in the agreement and did almost nothing new.

Rather than the 2050 deadline fixed by the Group of Seven nations at the their June summit, the G20 communique used non-specific wording for achieving net-zero carbon emissions, saying that it would be "by or around mid-century".

The final communique also does not have any tangible commitment to cut methane emissions, which reports say was in earlier drafts.

In a declaration adopted by G20, leaders agreed that any premature withdrawal of Covid-19 stimulus packages would adversely affect the world economy. They also agreed to boost supply of vaccines in developing countries and expedite the emergency use authorisation process of jabs. P11

2050 deadline

The US and Europe have set the 2050 as their deadline for achieving net-zero emissions, while China, Russia and Saudi Arabia are aiming for 2060. India hasn't committed to the 2050 target date either

New Zealand players celebrate after picking up an Indian wicket on Sunday | AFP

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

India blown out in the desert

India's World Cup campaign went from bad to worse as they collapsed against New Zealand on Sunday. A look at a few points...

2003
India haven't beaten NZ in any ICC event since the 2003 World Cup.

2007
First time since 2007 that India began a World Cup campaign by losing the first 2 games.

FATE NOT IN OWN HANDS

Having lost **two in two,** India are now odds on to not even qualify for the semifinals. They will have to rely on both New Zealand and Afghanistan losing at least one more game.

TOP-ORDER CRUMBLES

Like against Pakistan, the Men In Blue lost it thanks to a less than ideal opening. They were 2/35 after the power play and 4/48 after 10.1 overs. Having to rebuild meant they were always behind the eight ball.

SPINNERS CAUSE TROUBLE

The double pivot of Mitchell Santner and Ish Sodhi kept the Indian middle-order on their toes. In all, they combined for 32 runs for two wickets in eight overs, giving away zero boundaries.

RAPID START

Defending a smallish total, it was imperative to get early wickets. India failed to do that as they allowed both Martin Guptill and Daryl Mitchell to get away to quick starts. From then on, it was always going to be academic. Worse still, India also suffered a big NRR dent | P13

PUNEETH AMONG THE STARS NOW

Tears rolled and chants rented the air as the much-loved Kannada film star Puneeth Rajkumar was laid to rest with full state honours at Sree Kanteerava Studios in Bengaluru on Sunday. A large number of dignitaries, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former CM BS Yediyurappa, and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, were present, as thousands of fans earlier marched along with the cortege carrying Puneeth's mortal remains to Sree Kanteerava Studios | SHARAN BK | P4

EXPRESS READ

Bopanna, Belawadi bag Rajyotsava awards

BENGALURU: Tennis player Rohan Bopanna and theatre, film and media personality Prakash Belawadi and Dr Sudarshan were among the 66 personalities and organisations chosen for the Rajyotsava Awards, on the occasion of the 66th Rajyotsava celebrations | P7

Yogi govt failing Guru Gorakhnath: Priyanka

LUCKNOW: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took aim at UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur on Sunday, saying his government was not in line with Guru Gorakhnath's teachings | P9

A 16-PAGE MARKETING SUPPLEMENT WITH THIS ISSUE

NATIONWIDE	OCT 30	OCT 31
Fresh cases	14,313	12,830
Recoveries	13,543	14,667
Deaths	549	446

KARNATAKA	OCT 30	OCT 31
Fresh cases	347	292
Recoveries	255	345
Deaths	10	11